

# PEARLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Pearland Historical Society  
P. O. Box 1333  
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“Dedicated to preserving the history and heritage of “Old Pearland”

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

As I am writing this issue of the **Newsletter**, I am reminded of **Willie Nelson’s** song “**Ain’t It Funny How Time Slips Away**”. It seems such a short time ago when I wrote the first issue of the **Newsletter**. Actually it was **June, 1994** – twenty four years ago. Looking back through the **Newsletters** of the 90’s and early 2000 makes one realize how fast time does slip away; and also makes one realize the need for a younger group of officers for our **Historical Society**.

The first **Newsletter** featured a story about **Josie Heflin**, who was 96 years old at the time. Many of you will remember **Josie’s home on Main Street** was where the old oak tree is next to the **Pearland State Bank**. Her **Father** was the **Pearland post master** in the early **1900’s**. **Josie** recalled many early memories of old **Pearland** and fortunately they are on record in her story in the **Newsletter**.

Now we are looking at a younger group of officers for our **Historical Society** and hopefully many of our older members will write stories about “**Pearland**” as they remember it when they were young. Further in the **Newsletter** is a column about “**You really are a long time Pearlander** is you remember” and listed are some memories of **Pearland** many of us recall.

Right now the new group of officers appears to be **Jerry Johnston, President; Brenda Martin Riggs, 1<sup>st</sup> vice president; Donald Hayes, 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**president, Marsha Swensen McDaniel, Treasurer and Karen Kliesing, Secretary.**

With the exception of **Don Hayes**, all of the new officers grew up in **Pearland** and their families were long time **Pearland** families. It is good to have **Don Hayes** as an officer in our **Society**. **Don** is a younger person, fairly new to **Pearland**; and a dedicated worker for improving our lives.

**Jerry Johnston** says he does not want to become an officer until after the **October** luncheon and suggested that the new group of officers not be installed until after the luncheon. Sounds like a good idea.

Don’t forget our quarterly meeting Thursday **July 19th at 7:00 P.M.**, As usual coffee, soft drinks, cookies and visitation follow the meeting. See you there.

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## WHAT’S HAPPENING

**Jerry Johnston** visited the old depot museum in **Crockett, Texas** and took a lot of pictures and wrote a very interesting report about the **Crockett** museum and the problems they have experienced. Many seem like they would be

problems we would experience here in Pearland. The depot in **Crockett** is in the old part of the town (**Crockett** has a by-pass) so they don't get a lot of visitors who just happen to be passing through. .

We will discuss **Jerry's** report at our **July 19th** meeting,

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**AMONG OUR MEMBERS AND OLD TIME PEARLANDERS**

Society Member and long time **Pearlander John "Bootsie" Yost** passed away **April 25th**. **Bootsie** was a member of one of the pioneer **Pearland** families and still lived on "**Yost Road**. He played on the old **Pearland** town team baseball team as a third baseman and was an avid **Oiler** football fan and all around really good guy. He will be greatly missed. Our deepest sympathies go out to his wife, **Mary Alice** and family.

**Debbie Guidry Green**, a **1968 PHS** grad passed away **April 11th**.

**1958 PHS grad Louis Triplett** passed away **April 19th**. **Louis** was the oldest son of **Dan and Vera Rutherford Triplett**.

Long time **Pearlander Wayne Wilson** passed away **April 24th** after a long illness. **Wayne** was the older brother of **Society Member Jimmy Wilson**

Long time **Pearlander Arnold Watson** passed away **May 26th** at the **V.A. Hospital in Houston**. He had been in hospice at the **V.A.** for about 10 days. **Arnold** was **96-1/2** years old and the last of that generation of the many **Watsons** of our area. He served in **WWII** in both **Africa and Europe** fighting in most of the major battles under all the great generals. He was the **Justice of the Peace in Pearland** in the mid to late 60's. He was the grandson of one of **Pearland's** early settlers, **Julius and Alice Watson**.

**1969 PHS Grad. Mike Carbone** passed away **July 2nd**. **Mike** was the son of **Dominic and Alta McCormack Carbone**.

**Reba Eddings Kliesing** went into the hospital back in early **May** diagnosed with gall bladder cancer. **Reba** passed away **June 12th** after a short stay in **Windsong Nursing Home**. **Reba** was the **salutatorian** of her class (**1949**) and was an outstanding volleyball player. In **Reba's** obituary it was mentioned that she was a member of the "**Dingy Bunch**" which was **Reba** and four of her classmates (**Carleen Nichols Mark, Juanita Stone Sutherland, Louise Haskins Wiseley; and Jean Beck Dalmolin**) who often got together to have lunch and visit or to celebrate birthdays. There was always so much laughter and remembrances of good times that they tagged themselves as the "**Dingy Bunch**),



"**Dingy Bunch**" with classmates at reunion many years ago. **Bottom Row L/R: Juanita Stone Sutherland, Carleen Nichols Mark, Wayne Long (deceased) Louise Haskins Wiseley (deceased) Reba Eddings Kliesing (deceased) Bac Row: L/R: Betty Cook Knappe (deceased) Lee Scott; Jean Beck Dalmolin (deceased) and Barbara Christofferson (deceased)**

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A follow up on members mentioned with health problems in the **April Newsletter**

In the **April Newsletter** we mentioned that **Society Member Truby Keller**, wife of former **Mayor Dan Keller**, had undergone neck surgery. She had an 8-1/2 inch incision from the base of her skull to below her C-7 vertebra. The doctors have said **Truby** will continue to have some paralysis on the left side of her left side and limbs. At this point the doctors are happy with her progress. She and **Dan** have been through a lot – keep them in your prayers.

**Society member David Smith** had surgery **June 18<sup>th</sup>** to remove a very large gallstone which was in the gallbladder duct plus several smaller stones in the gall bladder. **Susan** reports that **David** did very good and is now back to eating a regular diet. Sounds good.

**Susan** also reports that her husband, **Ben Lenamon** is doing good after his bout with pneumonia – got a good report from the Dr. and does not have to return to the Dr. for 3 months.

**Dwight Bittick**, who is being treated for colon problems, fell recently and broke the femur in his leg. He had surgery on his leg and had a rod implanted in the femur. **Dwight** is on a walker but has recently returned to attending the “**old codgers**” coffee group.

**Ray Kliesing**, who had a mild heart attack back in **February** is reported to be doing real well now.

We mentioned also that **Armilda Nichols Hall** was experiencing colon problems. Good to report **Armilda** is doing good and does not have to return for a doctor visit for quite awhile.

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Now for some good news!! **Peggy Long’s** granddaughter, **Reagan Long**, graduated from **S.M.U.** on **May 19<sup>th</sup>** with a degree in mechanical engineering; and the best part is **Reagan** went to work on **June 4<sup>th</sup>** as a mechanical engineer. Congratulations **Reagan** and I know **Peggy** is very proud also.

Mary Long Borm Alfred and celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary July 2<sup>nd</sup>. The following picture and story were in the San Marcos newspaper:



**Alfred and Mary Long Borm**

*“July 2, 1958 was a typical hot, muggy summer night in the Houston area. In the small suburban town of Pearland the Methodist Church was packed with friends and relatives come to witness the long-awaited wedding of Alfred Ervin Borm and Mary Elizabeth Long. They were high school sweethearts who had been together through long years of college when they were apart a lot. When Alfred finished college they had been dating for five and a half years and it was time for them to marry. He was 20 years old and she was 19.*

*Just a few months later they began a great adventure as they moved far away to a new job in Seattle. They lived on the west coast a few years and moved back to Texas in 1962 when Alfred began graduate study at The University of Texas at Austin. Along with their two young children, Eric Alfred and Paula Noël, they moved to San Marcos in 1967 and have lived here ever since.*

*Over the years they helped one another to extend their education and together amassed two bachelor’s degrees, three master’s, one doctorate, and a CPA certificate. Mary*

*founded and managed a highly successful CPA practice for many years while Alfred worked teaching mathematics and computer science.*

*They traveled a good deal in the USA with a camper trailer when the children were young. Later they went to more distant places on their own. They remain avid fans of the Texas Longhorn baseball team. In retirement they still travel and hope this fall to visit two states of the three they have never seen. They greatly enjoy their two grandchildren and are active in various local volunteer programs."*

**Congratulations Mary and Alfred**

**(Editor's Note: Luther and Helen Cunningham celebrated 62 years of marriage on June 29<sup>th</sup>.**

**Carleen and I will celebrate our 66<sup>th</sup> anniversary July 25<sup>th</sup>.)**

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### **REUNION LUNCHEON**

Be sure to mark **October 27<sup>th</sup>** on your calendar. That is the date of our annual **Reunion Luncheon** which is always a really fun affair. It is always great to get old time **Pearlanders** together. We will be honoring the **1968 PHS** gradating class. Time of the luncheon is 11:00 A.M. to approx.. 3:00 P.M. As in the past the luncheon will be at the **Pearland School District Administration Building (Old Wal-Mart Building ) on Highway 35**. Return the reservation form attached to the **Newsletter** to reserve your place at the luncheon. As usual we will also be lighting candles in memory of **Historical Society** members and old time **Pearlanders** who have passed away in the past year and also for members of the class of **1968** who are no longer with us.

We mailed 93 invitations out to the honored class of 1968. A big thank you goes out to 1968

grad Denice **Raymond Buchanan** who furnished mailing addresses. It was a big job on her part.

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### **LOOKING BACK**

Thinking about the luncheon and the class of **68** who consider themselves "**old timers**"; and yes, they really are. However, we will have quite a few at the luncheon to whom the **1968** grads will be looked at as "youngsters." In looking through the **68 "Gusher Yearbook"**, it is easy to see why the grads feel like old. timers. How **Pearland** has changed!!!

In **68** we had one high school and in the yearbook were pictures of 102 seniors. **Denice Buchanan** advised that the following grads have passed away: **Michael G. Allen** (not confirmed) **Marcella C. Bell**, **Doyle Green**, **Debbie Guidry Green**, **Terry Knight**, **Elyse Opel Kettler**, **Sheryl Price Searcy**, **William "Bill" Osteen**, **Jan Sutter**, **Robert Spencer Taylor**, **Dwayne Smith** and **Charlene Barnes Fellers**

**Editor's Note: If memory serves me well, Terry Knight was killed in Vietnam in service for his country.**

**Supt. was Steven Prensner; High School Principal was C. V. Cook; Jr. High Principal was Herbert Carleston; Elementary principals were C. J. Harris and E. A. "Buster" Lawhon.**

The **Oilers** had a pretty good football season winning 7 and losing 3 under **Head Coach Leon Sablutura**.

The girls basketball team had a great year winning district, bi-district and first round of regional.

**Homecoming queen** was **Shirley Lejsal** with escort being **William Hunter**. Now **Mr.& Mrs. William Hunter**.

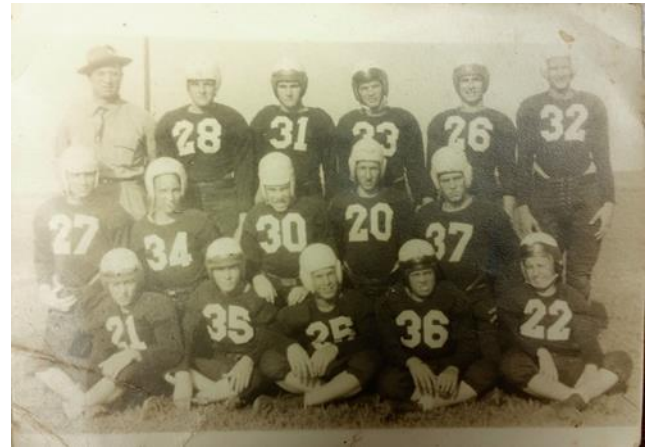


**William Hunter and Shirley Lejsal 1968**

As mentioned earlier, members of the class of 68 are certainly old time **Pearlanders**. Following are a few things about **Pearland** that certainly an old timer will remember;

You know you are a **Pearland “Old Timer”** if you remember when:

1. *The old corner drugstore which was on the north-east corner of Main and Broadway. You could get a great hamburger and a malt for about 25 cents total. High school students would walk from the school to the drugstore to eat lunch.*
2. *When Pearland played 6-man football at a field where our Historical Society building now stands. Below is 6 man team of 1946*



**Six Man Team of 1946 – Coach Lloyd Hawkins**

3. *When the old depot sat beside the railroad track near where current “Busy Bee café is now.*
4. *When Pearland had two school buses for the entire school district*
5. *When Kliesing Motor Company was in the building on Main St. where the paint and body shop is now.*
6. *When Mrs. Cunningham had an ice house (a real ice house not a beer joint) on Main St. where people went to buy ice. She also had a small grocery store with the ice house*
7. *When Pearland had an airport on the southeast corner of Walnut and Highway 35. Airport was built by Raymond Kliesing (as I recall).*
8. *When rice fields covered most of the land west of Pearland.*
9. *When the Mayor of Pearland was not Tom Reid. (Must be doing a good job.)*

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Speaking of “old timers” several years ago **1942 PHS grad, Victor Shore**, e-mailed a few “old folks” hymns.

*“Just a Slower Walk with Thee”*

*“No One Knows the Trouble I Have Seeing”*

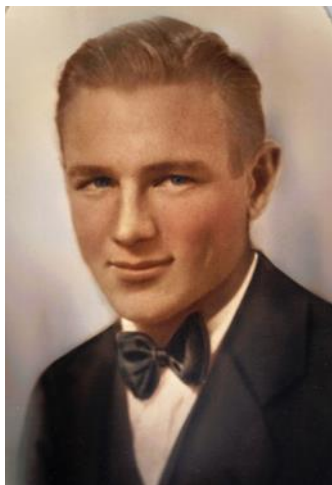
*“Precious Lord, Take my Hand – and Help Me Up”*

*“Give Me That Old Timers’ Religion”*

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Thanks to **Brenda Riggs** for the following story about **Jack Miller** and family.

***ELINEWT “JACK” MILLER** was born July 24, 1919 in Oklahoma to John Homer Miller and Edna Tomas Brown Miller. Jack battled polio as a child. The family moved to Pearland approximately 1918. An article in the September 29, 1979 “Founders Day” issue of the Journal, Jack discussed working at the Fig Plant on “kettle row” in 1926-27 at the age of 16 cooking light and dark figs and fig jam. Figs wee a major business in Pearland along with haymaking, dairy farming and cattle ranching.*



*He loved to rodeo and also discussed ridng the school bus to Webster High School. Students began school at the agoe of 8 years and there were 11 grades. His graduating class was1931. Jack married Mary Lee Smith, daughter of*

*David Lee Smith, Sr. and Ina Gullett Smith on May 11, 1935 in Fort Bend County. That same year they built their home at 2102 North Austin Avenue in Pearland.*



*Note: House is still standing*

*Ina Kathryn “Ikie” Miller, their daughter, was born in 1939. Ikie was a 1957 PHS gaduate She received a Bachelor of Art Degree from Southwest Texas State College and Master’s Degree in Library Science from Sam Houston State University.*



*During World Wr II, Jack served in the United States Merchant Marines. He received two commendations: Middle East War Zone Bar and the Antlanic War Zone Bar.*

*After the war, Jack returned to Pearland and was the owner of the Crossroad Service Station located on the SW corner of SH 35 [South Main] and FM 518 [West Broadway]. He later*

*added a two-bay car wash built by his brother-in-law David L. Smith, Jr.*

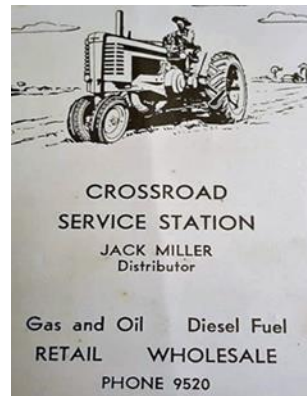


*Southwest corner of Main & Broadway. [The car wash is to the right of the service station in the picture.]*

*Many will remember Homer Miller [Jack's father] owned the Crossroad Inn, located just South of the service station. I remember going there when I was young. Robbie Lee Henry Martin, my aunt, worked there. They served food and she was an amazing cook! There was a bar along the West wall and... shuffleboard – very popular at the time. The Crossroad Inn was moved about 1955.56 to the West side of town on San Antonio Avenue. It was renovated and was the home of the Marcus G. Howard family. Buildings and houses were either moved or the lumber was used to construct another facility.*

*Pearland Common District No. One was incorporated to Pearland Independent School District September 1946. The Board of Trustees was increased from a three member board to seven members. Jack served on the Pearland ISD Board of Trustees from October 1946 to 1951. As a supporter of PISD students, Jack*

*had advertisements in many Gusher year*



*Jack served as the first City Marshall.*



*Jack and Mary Lee were charter members of the Pearland Historical Society. Mary Lee was active in PTA. The 1946 Gusher yearbook reflects she served as Treasurer.*

*The City of Pearland was incorporated in 1959.*

*Jack passed away June 29, 1990; and Mary Lee May 21, 2015 at the age of 104 years. She was the oldest Historical Society member for several years. Ikie passed away November 9, 2017. They are buried at South Park Cemetery, Pearland Texas.*

*Society members have many fond memories of the Jack Miller family and appreciate their service to our community and country.*

*Brenda Martin Riggs*

[Many thanks to Susan Smith Lenamon for sharing the 1931 and WWII pictures!]



*Pearlanders on early Webster High Football Team: #1 Merl Tholen; #5 Warren Martin; #12 Vernon Halik; #15 Jack Miller; #2 Clarence Smith*

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### MEMORIES FROM JOSIE'S SCRAPBOOKS

While looking through old **Newsletters**, I came across a story which fits in with our theme about looking back and growing old. A little more **Pearland** history. It is from the **April, 2001** Newsletter.

When **Josie Frankenger** moved from her house on **Main St.** she left to the **Historical Society** her six big scrapbooks. Recycling was a way of life with **Josie** long before recycling came into vogue in our modern lives. Josie could find a use for everything. Her scrapbooks are in big binders that were Christmas card display books. She left us six of those books full of newspaper articles, pictures, letters, receipts and all sorts of interesting things. She always loved to show her scrapbooks to any visitor to her home; so I know **Josie** would be pleased we her sharing her memories with you.

**(Editor's note: Her six scrapbooks are on a shelf in our Historical Society building.)**

In her scrapbook is an interesting story about **Raymond Kliesing**. Some of the interesting

things **Raymond** recalled about his boyhood days in **Pearland** were picking cotton where **Green Tee** country club and golf course are now and getting 50 cents for riding his bicycle to **Alvin** and back to deliver a telegram. He became an associate **Chevrolet** dealer in 1925 when he was 19 years old. Then in 1927 he signed with **Chevrolet** dealer. At that time a **Chevy** convertible sold for **\$528**. He spoke of the dance hall over his garage and of **Floyd Tilman** living in a trailer behind the dance hall sometime around 1936 or 37. It was while there that **Tilman** wrote the hit songs "**Each Night at Nine**" and "**Slipping Around**". **Raymond Kliesing** played a major role in the history of **Pearland**.

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DON'T FORGET OUR QUARTERLY MEETING THURSDAY NIGHT JULY 19TH AT 7:00 P.M. AT OUR HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOME ON GALVESTON AVE. COOKIES, COFFEE, COLD DRINKS AND VISITATION WILL FOLLOW THE MEETING. SEE YOU THERE.

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### *How to know you are growing older*

*"Everything hurts and what doesn't hurt doesn't work."*

*"You get winded playing cards."*

*"You need glasses to find your glasses,"*

*"You feel like the night before and you haven't been anywhere."*



**RETURN THIS FORM TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE AT THE PEARLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY "REUNION LUNCHEON" SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2018 AT THE PEARLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITY AT 1928 NORTH MAIN ST. TICKETS ARE \$15.00 PER PERSON**

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, count me in for a good time at the annual Historical Society Reunion Luncheon.

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for luncheon tickets.

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**SPOUSE OR GUEST'S NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Pearland Historical Society, P.O. Box 1333, Pearland, Texas 77588



**Membership Form - - Pearland Historical Society**

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ covering membership dues \_\_\_\_\_ of \$15 per person for the following persons for the year 2018

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**e-mail address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Dues paid in the last quarter of the year cover the following year.**

Mail to: Pearland Historical Society, P.O. Bo 1333, Pearland, Texas 77588